AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph at page 72, lines 18-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Optical element (a'2) was obtained by laminating the long sheet of optically anisotropic member (A2) obtained in Preparation Example 3 and optical element (b'2) obtained above in accordance with the roll-to-roll process. The angle between the slow axis of optically anisotropic member (A2) and the absorption axis of optical element (b'2) [(a'2)] was 90°. A plate having a suitable size was cut out of optical element (a'2) and used as polarizer plate of the output side (A'2).

Replace the paragraph at page 76, lines 9-12 with the following amended paragraph:

Optically anisotropic member (B3) had refractive indices of n_{xB} [n_{xA}]: 1.56677, n_{yB} [n_{yA}]: 1.56617 and n_{zB} [n_{zA}]: 1.56677, an in-plane retardation R_e(B3) of 60 nm, and a retardation in the direction of the thickness R_{th}(B3) of -30 nm.

Replace the paragraph at page 78, lines 8-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Optically anisotropic member (B4) had refractive indices of n_{xB} [n_{xA}]: 1.56775, n_{yB}[n_{yA}]: 1.56505 and n_{zB}[n_{zA}]: 1.56640, an in-plane retardation R_e(B4) of 270 nm, and a

retardation in the direction of the thickness R_{th}(B4) of 0 nm.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 80, line 25, and ending at page 81, line 8 with the following amended paragaph:

An optical element was obtained by laminating the long sheet of optically anisotropic member (B4) obtained in Preparation Example 8 and a long sheet of a polarizer plate [manufactured by SANRITZ Company; HLC2-5618S; the thickness: 180 μm] in accordance with the roll-to-roll process in a manner such that the side of the discotic liquid crystal layer of optically anisotropic member (B4) [(A4)] was placed towards the polarizer plate. The angle between the slow axis of optically anisotropic member (B4) and the absorption axis of the polarizer plate was 90°. A plate obtained by cutting out of the obtained optical element in a suitable size was used as polarizer plate at the incident side (B'4).

Replace the paragraph at page 82, lines 13-15 with the following amended paragraph:

Preparation Example 9 (Preparation of a film of optically anisotropic member (A5) satisfying $\underline{n_{zA} \geq n_{yA}}$ [$n_{zB} \geq n_{yB}$] and $\underline{n_{xA} \geq n_{zA}}$ [$n_{xB} \geq n_{zB}$])

Replace the paragaph at page 84, lines 11-14 with the following amended paragraph:

Optically anisotropic member (B5) had refractive indices of $\underline{n_{xB}}$ [n_{xA}]: 1.54590,

$n_{yB}[n_{yA}]$: 1.54368 and $n_{zB}[n_{zA}]$: 1.54590, an in-plane retardation R_e(B5) of 190 nm, and a retardation in the direction of the thickness R_{th}(B5) of -90 nm.

Replace the paragraph at page 86, lines 9-12 with the following amended paragraph:

Optically anisotropic member (B6) obtained above had refractive indices of $n_{xB}[n_{xA}]$: 1.54347, $n_{yB}[n_{yA}]$: 1.54080 and $n_{zB}[n_{zA}]$: 1.54206, an in-plane retardation R_e(B6) of 270 nm, and a retardation in the direction of the thickness R_{th}(B6) of 8 nm.

Replace the paragraph at page 91, lines 19-22 with the following amended paragraph:

Optically anisotropic member (B7) obtained above had refractive indices of $n_{xB}[n_{xA}]$: 1.58687, $n_{yB}[n_{yA}]$: 1.58362 and $n_{zB}[n_{zA}]$: 1.58525, an in-plane retardation R_e(B7) of 270 nm, and a retardation in the direction of the thickness R_{th}(B7) of 0 nm.